

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A fixture for facilitating the fabrication of a fuel-cell membrane electrode assembly, the fixture comprising:

a plate having an aperture; and

means for detachably mounting a thin film gasket to the plate, the gasket having a thickness less than about 500 microns and at least one opening in the gasket smaller than the aperture in the plate, including at least one of adhesive means, magnetic means, and vacuum means so that the gasket at least partially obstructs the aperture; [[and]]

wherein the portion of the gasket that at least partially obstructs the aperture provides a surface for mounting at least one electrode over the opening in the gasket for a fuel-cell membrane electrode assembly; and

wherein the fixture contains an electrode mounted over the opening in the thin film gasket.

Claims 2–3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (original): The fixture as recited in claim 1, wherein the means for mounting the gasket to the plate comprises at least one magnet.

Claim 5 (original): The fixture as recited in claim 4, wherein the means for mounting the gasket to the plate further comprises at least one ferro-magnetic plate mounted to the at least one magnet.

Claim 6 (original): The fixture as recited in claim 4, wherein the fixture further comprises at least one vacuum aperture in the plate operatively connected to a source of vacuum.

Claim 7 (original): The fixture as recited in claim 6, wherein the fixture further comprises at least one vacuum channel in fluid communication with the at least one vacuum aperture.

Claim 8 (original): The fixture as recited in claim 1, wherein the plate comprises a plate having a thickness of less than about 0.25 inches.

Claim 9 (original): The fixture as recited in claim 8, wherein the plate comprises at least one of a metallic and a non-metallic material.

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (original): The fixture as recited in claim 1, wherein the gasket comprises a thin-film gasket having a thickness less than about 500 microns.

Claims 12–25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (currently amended): A fixture for facilitating the fabrication of devices having thin films, the fixture comprising:
a plate having an aperture; and
means for detachably mounting a thin film to the plate, the thin film having a thickness less than about 500 microns and at least one opening in the thin film smaller than the aperture in the plate, so that the thin film at least partially obstructs the aperture; and

wherein the portion of the thin film that at least partially obstructs the aperture provides a surface for mounting at least one component of the device over the opening in the thin film; and
wherein the fixture contains a component of the device mounted over the opening in the thin film.

Claim 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (original): The fixture as recited in claim 26, wherein the means mounting the thin film to the plate comprises at least one of mechanical means, magnetic means, and vacuum means.

Claim 29 (original): The fixture as recited in claim 26, wherein the means for mounting the thin film to the plate comprises at least one magnet.

Claim 30 (original): The fixture as recited in claim 29, wherein the means for mounting the thin film to the plate further comprises at least one ferro-magnetic plate mounted to the at least one magnet.

Claim 31 (original): The fixture as recited in claim 29, wherein the fixture further comprises at least one vacuum aperture in the plate operatively connected to a source of vacuum.

Claim 32 (original): The fixture as recited in claim 31, wherein the fixture further comprises at least one vacuum channel in fluid communication with the at least one vacuum aperture.

Claim 33 (original): The fixture as recited in claim 26, wherein the plate comprises a plate having a thickness of less than about 0.25 inches.

Claim 34 (original): The fixture as recited in claim 33, wherein the plate comprises at least one of a metallic and a non-metallic material.

Claim 35 (original): The fixture as recited in claim 34, wherein the non-metallic material comprises a composite material.

Claim 36–43 (canceled)